

W<sup>m</sup> Speaker and Govt of the Assembly.

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Noon 22

The Petition of the Inhabitants of

Anson County being part of the Remonstrance of the Province  
of North Carolina,

Humbly Sheweth

That the Province in general labour under general grievances, and the Western part thereof under particular ones; which we not only see, but very considerably feel, being trodden beneath our sufferings; and notwithstanding our red priviledges, have too long yielded our sober slaves to remorseless oppression.— Permit us to conceive it to be our inalienable right to make known our grievances, and to petition for redress; as appears in the Bill of Rights passed in the reign of King Charles the first, as well as the Act of Settlement, of the Crown at the Negotiations. We therefore beg leave to lay before you a specimen thereof that your compassionate endeavours may tend to the relief of your injur'd Constituents, whose distressed condition calls aloud for aid. The alarming cries of the oppressed possibly may reach your ears, but, how shall they ascend the Throne— how relentless is the breast without sympathy, the heart that cannot bleed on a view of our calamity; to see tenderness remov'd, cruelty steping in; and all our liberties and priviledges invaded and abridg'd by so it were domesticks who are conscious of their guilt and void of remorse.— O how daring, how relentless!

whilst

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whilst suspending judgments loudly threaten, and gaze upon them, with every emblem of merited destruction.—

" A few of the many grievances are as follows/

- 1 That the poor Inhabitants in general are much oppressed by reason of disproportionate Taxes, and those of the western Counties in particular; as they are generally in mean circumstances.—
- 2 That no method is appointed by Law prescribed by Law for the payment of the Taxes of the Western Counties in produce (in lieu of a currency) as is in other Countries within this Province; to the People great Oppression.—
- 3 That Lawyers, Clerks, and other pensioners; instead of being obsequious Servants for the Country are, or become a nuisance; as the business of the People is often transacted without the least degree of fairness. The intention of the Law evaded, acerbant fees extorted, and the sufferers left to mourn under their oppression.—
- 4 That an Attorney should have it in his power, either for the sake of ease or interest, or to gratify their malice and spite, to commence <sup>to what injury</sup> suits, he pleases, however inconvenient it may be to the Defendant; is a very great Oppression.
- 5 That all unlawful fees taken on Indictments, where the Defendant is acquitted by his Country, however customary it may be, is an oppression.—
- 6 That Lawyers, Clerks, and others, extorting more fees than is usual and intended by Law, is also an oppression.
- 7 That the Violation of the King's Instructions to his delegates, their artfulness in concealing the same from him; and the great Injury the People thereby sustaine is a manifest Oppression.—

And for remedy whereof, we take the freedom to recommend the following mode of relief; not doubting audience and acceptance; which will not only tend to our relief, but command the prayers as duty <sup>from</sup> your humble Petitioners.—

1. That at all Elections each suffrage be given by Ticket & Ballot.
2. That the mode of Taxation be altered, and each person to pay in proportion to the profits arising from his Estate.
3. That no future Tax be laid in Money, till a Currency is made.—
4. That there may be established a Western as well as a Northern and Southern District, and a Treasurer for the same.—
5. That when a Currency is made it may be let out by a Loan office (on Land security) and not to be called in by a Tax.—
6. That when a Treasury is made it may be let out by a Tax.—
7. That all Debts above 40/- and under £10 be tried and determined without Lawyer, by a jury of six freeholders impaneled by a Justice, and that their Verdict be entered by the said Justice, and be a final judgment.—
8. That the Chief Justice have no perquisites, but a Salary only.—
9. That Lawyers be effectually barred from exacting and charging fees.—
10. That all doubts may be removed in respect to the payment of fees and Costs on Judgments, where the Defendant is not found guilty by the Jury, and therefore acquitted.
11. That the Assembly make known by Remonstrance to

the King, the conduct of the cruel and oppressive Reci-  
ver of the Quit Rents, for omitting the customary easy  
and effectual method of collecting by districts; and pur-  
suing the expensive mode of commencing suits in the  
most distant Courts.—

12. That the Assembly in like manner make known that  
the Governor and Council do frequently grant Lands to as  
many as they think proper without regard to Head Rights,  
notwithstanding the contrariety of His Majesties In-  
structions; by which means immense sums have been  
collected, and numerous Patents granted, for much of  
the most fertile Lands in this Province; that is  
yet uninhabited and uncultivated, environed by great  
numbers of poor people who are necessitated to toil  
in the cultivation of bad Lands wherein they hardly  
can subsist, who are thereby deprived of the Majesties  
liberality and Bounty: nor is there the least regard  
paid to the Cultivation Claims in said Patent mentioned,  
as many of the said Council as well as their friends  
and favourites enjoy large Quantities of Lands under  
the above-mentioned Circumstances.—

13. That the Assembly communicate in like manner the  
Violations of His Majesties Instructions respecting  
the Land Office by the Governor and Council and of  
their own Tales' Customs and Orders, if it be sufficiently  
proved, that after they had granted Warrants for many  
Tracts of Land, and that the same was in due time  
Survey'd and return'd, and the Patent fees timely  
paid into the said office; and that if a private Council  
was called on purpose to avoid spectators, and per-  
emptory orders made that Patents should  
not be granted; and Warrants by their orders  
arbitrarily

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arbitrarily to have Spent in the names of other Persons for  
the same Lands, and if when intreated by a Solicitor they  
refused to render so much as a reason for their so doing, or  
to refund any part of the money by them extorted.

*Such method may be pointed out that*

14 That every Improvement on Land in any of the Proprietors  
part be proved when begun, by whom it was incorporate made,  
that the ~~elect~~ <sup>may</sup> have the preference of at least 300 Acres

15 That all Taxes in the following Counties be paid as in other  
Counties in this Province lies in the produce of the Country  
and that Ware houses be erected as follows ~~Very~~ <sup>of</sup> i.e.  
Anson County at Isom Hales Ferry Landing  
on Pee Dee River, Rowan and Orange at Crampton in  
Cumberland County, Mecklenburg at ~~on the Catawba River~~  
and in Tyrrell County at ~~on~~

16 That every denomination of People may marry according  
to their respective Mode Ceremony and custom after due  
publication or Licence.

17 That Dr. Benjamin Franklin or some other known  
patriot be appointed agent, to represent the unhappy  
State of this Province to his Majesty, and to solicit the  
several Courts in England.

Dated October 9<sup>th</sup> 1769

John Moore

Isaac Armstrong  
W<sup>m</sup> Thompson

David Smith

his  
Isaac Parker

Mark  
John Williams

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Audt Hatchin		John F. Bracken Mark
James Howard		Wm G. Head Mark
Spas Falconer Mark		John A. Head Mark
Francis Smith		John M. Tallant Mark
John Rose		Benja Dumas
John Coggeshall		Joseph White
John Jones L.		W. Siden
Wm. Gruber Hedges		Silvanus water hiognath
Richard L. Mann Mark		John Smith Pond Hill
John O. Waller Mark		David Dumas
John W. Davis Mark		Benjamin B. Smithie Mark
Sam Taylor		Hollam B. Benilon
Richard James		Wm. Colman
John Jacob Hedges		Alex. Hall Ferguson
Theo T. Parker		R. D. Dickey
Frank Coggeshall Mark		James T. Gower
Daniel Coggeshall		Frank T. Gower
John Smith		Jonathan T. Gower
Frank Jeffrey		Wade
Matt French		Victor Jemont
Geo Miller		Theo. T. Parker Mark
Dixey Robinson		John Johnson
Robert J. Davis		James Ashton
Agila Jones		Wm. T. Dalton Mark
Thomas Tallant		James T. Belvin
James Denton		Wm. T. Slaughter Mark
Wm Raynor		Theo T. Wright Mark
John J. Morris Mark		Richard Leck
Geo Wilson		Charles H. Sing
Robert Webb		John N. Morris
George Taylor		Van Sweringen
		William Fox

Joseph Martin  
Tho<sup>r</sup> T. second  
mark  
william Burns  
John Leverett  
Hugels + Wihins  
Wm <sup>mark</sup>  
John Leverett  
son of William  
mark  
John Coleman  
Major M. Edwards  
mark  
John A. Mathis  
mark  
Jahaa Geary  
Sam. & Hatchell  
John Ladd Jr.  
Charles + Smith, mark  
James Bound  
Cochrane Kellogg  
Jason Meadow Jr  
Jason Meadow  
Robert Broadway  
Sam & Jonesberg, mark  
Samuel Lake  
Tho<sup>r</sup> <sup>mark</sup> S. Ballou his  
John <sup>mark</sup> Prestle his  
John <sup>mark</sup> Cartwright his  
Tho<sup>r</sup> Lacy  
John Jackson  
Joseph French

William Newbery  
Lemard Webb  
Julia Hollett  
John Parfet Jr.  
Mr. Sanderson  
Timothy Weston  
Jonathan H. Adams mark  
Selmon T. Adams mark  
James + Sanders  
Wm. & Minervina mark  
Robt. + Smith  
Leckarish Smith  
Hue Smith  
John Thomas  
Will<sup>m</sup> Bart  
D. Smith mark  
Elias + Clark mark  
John E. Clark mark  
James E. Adams mark  
Hov. E. Mason just mark  
John E. Hinneit mark  
Jonathan Turner mark  
Barnabas Skipper  
George Coffey  
John + Jenkins mark  
David Phelps  
John E. McGinnis mark  
John D. Cocherham mark  
Josiah E. Lovell mark  
Lorance Franklin

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Edward almond  
th of merv  
John Plumberry  
William Leaton  
Luke + Robinson, Ward  
I for W.C.

Andrew Giffen  
George Giffen  
James Giffen  
Wm. Giffen  
Stephen Bush  
Joseph Burcham  
Stephen D. Book  
David Ferrigan  
J. Farney  
William Thelphus  
Robt. Loring  
Denes his son  
Mark  
Lewis Loring  
Edward Charles  
his son  
Patrick Loring  
Mark  
William Loring  
his son  
William R. Loring  
Mark  
Stephen Loring  
Joseph Garrison  
Joseph Lovell  
Thomas Loring  
John Thomas  
Henry Gillington  
Samuel Kelly  
Tobias Kelly  
Gory + Belau  
William Blatt

Daniel March  
Abraham Belau, Ward  
Abel Donon  
Joseph T. Morris  
John Hale  
Thomas McCorman  
Francis Clark  
Jeremiah French  
David Burns  
Abel Bailey  
Stephen Bush  
Mark L. Aberham  
John L. Lovell  
Mark Lovell  
Stephen Jackson  
John Jones  
Archelaus McCorman  
William Digge  
Berea McCorman  
John H. Hale, son  
John T. Mathew  
John T. Mathew  
John T. Mathew  
John T. Mathew  
Joseph T. Hale  
John T. Loring  
Andrew T. Loring  
Joseph Loring, Ward  
Henry H. Loring, Ward  
John T. Bailey  
Mark  
David C. Cox, Ward  
John Shortland  
Mark

Isaac	Spicerick Laye
Wm. -	Mark
Walter	Gibson
	Mark
	his
Walter	Gibson
	Mark
Burlington	Mark
John	Mark
	his
John	Mark
	his
James	Mark
Theo. A. Brington	Mark
James Mackay Jr.	Mark
James Fox	Mark
Henry	Mark
	his
John	Mark
	his
John	Mark
	his
Stratford Rogers	Mark
John Morris	Mark
David Cook	Mark
Theo. O'Callaghan	Mark
Wm. -	Calypso you
	Mark
John F. Cooper	Mark
	his
John Hob. S. Jagger	Mark
	his
John	Mark
	his
John	Mark
	his
William Jenkins	Mark
Thomas D. Jenkins	Mark
	his
Augustine Prestwood	Mark
Richard Downes	Mark
Sam'l Hatchell Jane	Mark
Eliza Hatchell	Mark
John & Weston	Mark
John Weston sen	Mark
nedx mother	Mark
Benjamin Bunt	Mark
Charlotte	Mark
Christina	Mark
Tho' Pickett	Mark
Jacob formal	Mark
Stephen Dag	Mark
Theo. T. Ward	Mark
William L. Lucas	Mark
Christopher Butler	Mark
John Dowell	Mark
	his
Edward X. Ross	Mark
William Spencer	Mark
John	Mark
	his

- John Barber  
Wm & Sowel  
Mark  
John T Carpenter.  
Mark  
Francis & Sowden  
Mark  
Henry Gresham  
William Morris  
John F Morgan  
Mark  
James F Gresham  
James Sanders  
Joseph F Morris  
Mark
- Samuel Sowel  
Mark  
Charles Sowel  
Samuel Gibson Mark  
William Gibson  
Joseph Hunt  
Richd'l Maxwell Mark  
George T Maxwell Mark  
Wm Lewis & Lucas yard Mark  
Stepl Allen & Mark  
Wm T Morris yard  
Lowe & Sowden Mark
- John Skinner  
Jesse Wallant  
Mark  
William Dwyer  
Mark  
Matthew Raiford  
Elisha Thomson  
John Thomson  
Goin <sup>tar</sup> C Morgan  
Mark

Petition from Anson

Oct: 1769.

Referred to the Committee  
of Propositions & Grievances

Upper way off m<sub>m</sub>